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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District was established in 1971, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District exists to preserve, restore, and manage natural areas and open spaces for their intrinsic value and for their benefits to present and future generations; and

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WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District's vision is to have all residents develop a personal responsibility for their local environment and to gain a greater appreciation for their natural world; and

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WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District is governed by a 7-member volunteer Board of Trustees and stewarded by 80 employees and more than 783 volunteers, who are respected and experienced leaders in the parks, recreation, and conservation fields; and

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WHEREAS, Over the past decade, the McHenry County Conservation District has focused on purchasing land, restoring wildlife habitats, developing sustainable new sites, improving organizational efficiencies, implementing cost

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1 saving measures, producing environmental education programs,  
2 events, and outdoor recreational experiences; and

3 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District manages  
4 more than 25,000 acres of open space; 33 sites are open to the  
5 public for recreational access, including 115 miles of hiking  
6 trails, 41 miles of biking trails, 15 miles of canoeing, 2  
7 miles of horse trails, 19 fishing sites, 23 picnic shelters,  
8 and 6 campgrounds; and

9 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District  
10 conservation areas, sites, and facilities are an economic  
11 driver and catalyst for sustainability and growth in McHenry  
12 County; and

13 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District promotes  
14 environmental stewardship through active volunteer programs,  
15 such as the People and Nature Certificate Program, and through  
16 other activities and educational programming; and

17 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District promotes  
18 sound environmental practices through the development of  
19 public sites and through the establishment of ongoing green  
20 practices within agency operations; and

21 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District embodies

1 environmental stewardship in its core mission and is recognized  
2 as a premiere public agency in preserving, protecting, and  
3 managing open space in Illinois, the region, and the country;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District has been  
6 recognized by the United States Department of the Interior for  
7 its recent leadership role in establishing the Hackmatack  
8 National Wildlife Refuge as a bi-state national wildlife refuge  
9 within 100 miles of Chicago and 50 miles of Milwaukee,  
10 Wisconsin; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Park and Recreation Association is  
12 the leading advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement  
13 of public parks, recreation, and conservation with more than  
14 30,000 members and representing public spaces in urban  
15 communities, rural settings, and everything in between; and

16 WHEREAS, The McHenry County Conservation District has been  
17 awarded the 2013 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award by  
18 the National Park and Recreation Association, which recognizes  
19 a parks and recreation agency that has achieved excellence in  
20 environmental stewardship on a national level; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate the McHenry County Conservation District for  
2 receiving the 2013 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award  
3 for excellence in environmental stewardship and wish its  
4 employees continued success with their mission; and be it  
5 further

6       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the McHenry County Conservation District as a  
8 symbol of our esteem and respect.